shell, asbestos (either now or a little later), and some fine cloths of wool and linen.

CROSS-FERTILIZATION OF CULTURES THROUGH THE COMMERCE OF THE HAN

Commerce inevitably resulted in reciprocal cultural influences. There was an interchange in art and commerce over a vast area reaching from north of the Black Sea into China. Its full extent we shall probably never know. At best our information is fragmentary. One small example of what must have been taking place over much of this wide region has come to light in recently excavated tombs not far north of Urga, in Outer Mongolia. These sepulchres, supposed to date from about the beginning of the Christian era, are within territory once under the jurisdiction of the Hsiung Nu and are possibly those of Hsiung Nu or of related peoples. They contained pottery, several kinds of cloths, and a variety of objects in stone and metal. The artistic designs were derived from Greek, Chinese, Sarmatian, Scytho-Siberian (Yiieh Chih), Persian, Babylonian, and Assyrian sources. If this was true here, quite off the main trade routes, an admixture must have occurred along the chief arteries of commerce. Recent discoveries in the Tarim basin reveal the presence of various cultural influences in Han times. Excavations by Japanese in late years in Southern Korea in tombs possibly of a post-Han date have disclosed fragments of Roman glass goblets.

China, we know, had some effect upon the cultures of other peoples. Many Chinese joined themselves to the Hsiung Nu—a migration stimulated by the grim practice of Chinese Emperors of executing generals and envoys who were unsuccessful against the enemy. These, as well as merchants, must have

spread Chinese ideas and manners among the "barbarians." Silk, we have seen, went from China to the countries of Central and Western Asia and to Rome, and the peach and the apricot, of Chinese origin, reached Rome by the first century A.D. China, too, began to exert a marked influence on Tongking and Korea, and the Japanese had contacts with her.

Very notable was the effect of foreign intercourse upon China. Many of its ramifications are obscure or perhaps entirely hidden, but we are aware of it in the fields of art and religion. Chinese